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* "MADAME MAUD'S REVENGE" *
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* Property of Johnnie Spear. *
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62
Tony Tailor 52!
Elegance 58.
Jimmy Dace
Madame Maud.

MADAME MAUD'S REVENGE

CAST

MADAME MAUD KEEPER OF A HOUSE
HOGAN THE BOUNCER
EDWIN STEHL A ROTTER
WILLIAM HODGE A YOUNG MAN
LOUISE A YOUNG GIRL

SETTING

The reception room of Madame Maud's House. Elaborate and typical of such a place. Doors right and left. Sette
Liquor cabinet.

PROPS

TWO SURE FIRE GUNS
SETTEE
LIQUOR BOTTLE AND GLASSES
BROOM
CHECK BOOK
TABLE AND CHAIRS

MADAME MAUD'S REVENGE.

MADAME MAUD

(ENTERS FROM D. L. NOISE OF LAUGHTER OFF STAGE. SHE IS DRUNK) Aw, shut up all of you. (LAUGHS) Look at them---drunken fools! Wheedling out a little fun that will kill them later on. (X'S TO TABLE AND POURS OUT DRINK) They're makin' a lot of noise in there, Hogan, maybe you better go in and do your official bouncin' duty!

HOGAN

(HAS BEEN STRAIGHTENING UP THE ROOM) Yes'm! (EXITS NOISE. GLASS CRASH HE ENTERS WIPING OFF HANDS) The noise is ceased!

MADAME

(LOOKS AT HIM AND LAUGHS) Well, done my good and brave bum tosser! (EMPTIES GLASS OF WHISKEY)

HOGAN

You're drinkin' rather heavy tonight, aint you, Madame?

MADAME

It's gonna take loads and loads of liqour for me to do what I'm plannin on, Hogan.

HOGAN

Same old thing, eh? (SWEEPS ABOUT THE ROOM)

MADAME

He's in the house tonight!

HOGAN

I know it. I just told him to quit makin' so much noise. The police are hot right now, and if they here to much noise comin' from this place they'll raid your joint again.

MADAME

A lot of good it does to raid me. They just take me and my girls down and let us out again the minute I come across. No, Hogan, they'll never be able to close my little house of pleasure--not as long as I want to keep it open. I'm gettin' old though---I've got a lot to do and then me for quittin' the racket?

HOGAN

How you gonna quit?

MADAME

I haven't decided yet whether to go out the lead route or poison. What's the difference? (LAUGHS) Maybe I'll drink myself to death. (POURS OUT DRINK) But first I'm going to see that no good louse in there down on his knees whining like a stuck pig.

EDWIN STAHL

(ENTERS L. DRINKING AND DRUNK. LAUGHING AND IN A MERRY STATE OF INTOXICATION) ---there she is---been huntin' you, little Maudie. The lady who knows what men want. (LAUGHS) Have a little drink with me, baby.

MADAME

No, thanks! I never drink with those that are beneath me.

EDWIN

What dy'e mean?

MAUDE

Take it or leave it!

EDWIN

Inclined to be a little sarcastic tonight, huh? Oh well---! (DRINKS) Say what's that crack about me bein' beneath you. Why you old hag, who do you think you are. You're nothin' but the keeper of a house of ill-fame?

MAUDE

And you're nothing but a common frequenter of my house of ill fame!

EDWIN

(PUTS ARMS AROUND)HER) Then shake hands, old girl. We'll both get our dues when we die. But let's be happy while we can! Say, Maggie, you aint' got a hell of lot longer to live. Lord you 've been in this racket--ever since--

MAGGIE

Ever since a low down sneakin' hound dog took advantage of an ignorant little fool that I was once---

EDWIN

Once---that was twenty years ago!

MAGGIE

Twenty years ago to the date. Third (PUSHES HIM AWAY FROM HER) Get away from me. Damn you!

EDWIN

(SURLY) Don't shove me like that you--

HOGAN

(TAPS HIM ON THE SHOULDER) Better go out in the other room, buddie.

EDWIN

I don't know of any reason why I should go out there! (LOOKS AT HIM)

HOGAN

(HOLDS UP FIST) No, but I've got five damn good reasons why you shouldn't stay here. Come on! (TAKES HIM BY THE ARM)

EDWIN

Well, what's shentryin' to do---put on the ritz to me--I know her number---for cryin' out loud.

MAGGIE

You ought to know my number. You're the one who put me here! You sent me on the road to hell, you made me what I am--

EDWIN

(SINGING SNEERINGLY AND OFF KEY) You made me what I am today --I hope you're satisfied---

HOGAN

Can it! (SHOVES HIM OFF L.) That guy's a pest! Why don't you let me keep him away from here?

MAGGIE

You know why! This is going to be the last night we'll have to put up with him. It will all be over there Hogan, you've been pretty

party faithful. You've been in this dump of mine for a long 3
time. Taken care of me when I got too drunk, and all in all you've
been darn white. (SHE POURS OUT ANOTHER DRINK)

HOGAN

It's all right, Maggie. I'm for you, You got a dirty deal from the
start. Ever time I see that mug I want to crush him with my fist...
(TAKES DRINK FROM HER) Why not lay off of it, Maggie. It'll get you
sooner or later.

MAGGIE

(TAKES DRINK BACK) Nope! I've got to have plenty of it tonight. For
twenty years, Hogan, I've been planning this night. Guess who's
comin'?

HOGAN

Who?

MAGGIE

My daughter! I'm bringin' her from the boardin' school. She gets in
tonight. Now do you understand what I wanted Edwin Sthal here? You
remember what I told you I was going to do. That's why I'm drinkin'
Gee, think, Hogan, after all she's my own flesh and blood---

HOGAN

She don't know you're her mother yet, does she?

MAGGIE

No, I'm still her aunt Maggie to her. Of course she's going to be
all nice and sweet and innocent--it'll be hard for me to send her
to that man tonight, but I'm going to do it, because it'll make him
suffer! After he's ruined his own daughter as he did me, I'm going
to kill her--stash her life out! That's what I'll do!

HOGAN

Maggie, that's gonna be hard to do!

MAGGIE

Aint he got ht comin' to him? What could be better revenge. He put me
where I am---turned me out into the street---now I can let him strike
back at his own daughter. (LAUGHS) (DOOR BELL OFF R. RINGS.) That's
her! (GRABS BOTTLE TAKES BIG DRINK) I gotta get ready for her. Do
I look sober, Hogan? Bring her in. I'll talk to her a while. (HOGAN
EXITS R.) My revenge will soon be over!

HOGAN

(ENTERS WITH LOUISE AND WILLIAM) Right this way, Miss.

LOUISE

(STANDS AND LOOKS AT MAGGIE* Are---are you my aunt?

MAGGIE

I believe so--(who's the gent with you?)

LOUISE

Oh, that's William Hodge---a friend-of-mine-an acquaintance of mine.
Hemade the trip with me. I wanted you to meet him.

WILLIAM

I am pleased to meet you,

LOUISE

Is this your husband, Auntie? (POINTS TO HOGAN)

MAGGIE

Me---married---what the hell?--I mean er---Oh yes yes he's my husband.
(TO HOGAN) You're married now! Hogan.

LOUISE

(KISSES MAGGIE) Oh, Auntie, I'm so pleased with you! (STARTS TO PUT ARMS AROUND HER) You look so --so pretty, and--

MAGGIE

(TAKING HER ARMS) Don't do that, kid! I--well, just don't do it.

LOUISE

But, Auntie, all these years that I've been writing to you, and you and uncle Hogan have been taking care of me--sending me money and I've never seen you---now---oh I could love you both to death! (HUGS HOGAN)

HOGAN

Hey! Holy Gee! D---don't do that! (ACTS EMBARRASSED)

LOUISE

(LAUGHS) Why how funny you both you act! I know I'm going to like it here! Don't you think it's nice, William?

WILLIAM

I smell whiskey!

MAGGIE

It must be in the air, we just got Scotland over the radio, and maybe there's some Scotch in the mike!

WILLIAM

(LOOKING AT HER) I'll bet that isn't the only place there's Scotch.

MAGGIE

(SHARPLY. COLDLY) If you are ready to go, young man, my--my bouncer--I mean husband will show you the door.

HOGAN

Sure! This way out! (TAKES WILLIAM OUT BY THE ARM. WILLIAM LOOKS BACK TO LOUISE A LITTLE PROTESTINGLY)

LOUISE

Why, Auntie, I--I was going to have William stay, and---

MAGGIE

Never mind him, dear. I'll take you to your room! (TAKES HER BY HAND)

EDWIN

(ENTERS L. DRUNKENLY) I don't give a hang---I--(STOPS AND LOOKS AT LOUISE) Oh---look at this! Aint tha t sumpin'? (STARTS TO TOUCH LOUISE)

LOUISE

(DRAWS AWAY) Oh! Who is that man?

MAGGIE

Never mind him, honey. He's a no good drunken bum we are taking care of. Go to your room. I'll get rid of him. It's right up the second door to the left. You see this is an apartment house, and don't pay

5
any attention to them women that you might meet in the hallway. (LOUISE
EXITS L.)

EDWIN
(LOOKING AFTER HER) Who's that? Some new girl you got for the place?

MAGGIE
(SHREWDLY) Yes---a young girl who has been raised in a boarding school.
I just got her. Think she's there?

EDWIN
I'll say! Say, come here, Maggie---(SHE GOES TO HIM) I'd like to have
her---you know---she's young and ---and well different! How about it?

MAGGIE
Well, money speaks feller, money speaks!

EDWIN
I see! (HANDS HER CHECK BOOK) There's my check book you fill out the
amount. That's how I feel about it. (MAGGIE TAKES BOOK WRITES FIGURE
IN IT) Pretty nice sum--but it's worth it. Have you got her wised up
any or is she still dumb? (GIVES HER CHECK)

fix MAGGIE
No---I'll jail her! (TAKES BIG DRINK OF LIQUOR) You know I wouldn't
do this for every one. Edwin, you didn't get mad at me for what I
said awhile ago, did you, old boy? 9

EDWIN
Naw! Maybe I handed you a raw deal once, kid, but then you've made
money and livin' at that! (LAUGHS A LITTLE)

MAGGIE
(LAUGHS) Yes, I've lived all right! (HOGAN ENTERS) Hogan, the girl
that just came in, you know ---take this guy to her room. Understand?

HOGAN
Yes! Come on. (EXITS L. WITH EDWIN)

MAGGIE
(BEGINS LAUGHING LONG AND IN A MANIAS MANNER) Revenge! Revenge! And
I'm not sorry! I'm not sorry!

CLOSE IN

WILLIAM
(ENTERS R. KNOCKS ON DOOR.) Let me in! Let me in I say! (ENTERS R.)
Where's Louise? I want her.

MAGGIE
What do you want with her?

WILLIAM
I suspicioned what this place was and now I know. This is no place
for a girl like that! You know what this is. I don't know whether
you're her aunt or not.

MAGGIE
Well, my little boy scout, what are you going to do about it?

WILLIAM
Plenty! I'm going to marry that girl.'

Are you sure that you would want to marry her if you knew everything about her?

WILLIAM

I know that she's good and a straight little kid. I don't believe you are her aunt. I think you want her for your white slavery traffic. (LOUISE SCREAMS OFF STAGE L.) What's that? (STARTS FOR D. L.)

HOGAN

(ENTERS L.) Where you goin' Buddy.

WILLIAM

Let me in there. I heard Louise scream. Let me in there I say! What are you trying to do?

MAGGIE

Buddy, you're just wasting your time. That girl is not for you. I've sold her to another man. There's the check right there.

WILLIAM

You fiend!

MAGGIE

(LAUGHS) She's my own daughter! And I sold her! I sent her to hell, and I'm got sorry! I'm not sorry!

WILLIAM

Let me in there I say! Damn you! I'll kill you. (HOGAN HOLDS HIM TIGHTLY) Please for gods sake you can't do this damnable thing!

MAGGIE

(GLOATING) I've waited twenty years for this---twenty years for revenge on the man who wrecked my life, and now I've got it. I've got it! She's my own daughter, but I don't care. He had it comin' to him. Soon I'll be able to tell him what he's done!

WILLIAM

Louise! Louise! (PLEADING WITH MAGGIE) Listen, I've got money. I'll give you everything I've got! Everything! I'll---(SUDDENLY DRAWS GUN) Now damn you get away, I'm going to save that girl! (STARTS FOR DOOR) (EDWIN ENTERS HIS COAT OFF COLLAR UNFASTENED. HE STANDS LOOKS AT THEM A LITTLE STUPIFIED) (WILLIAM TURNS AWAY SICK)

EDWIN

Well? (MAGGIE LAUGHS) What the hell are you laughing at?

MAGGIE

Now, I'll tell you what you've done! You wanted her? You bogg~~h~~ her didn't you? You paid me for her.

EDWIN

Yes. What are you drivin' at?

MAGGIE

You had the pleasure of dragging her soul down the same as you did mine. Now she's one of us. She's tainted---no good! Are you satisfied with what you paid for?

EDWIN

What are you drivin' at?

MAGGIE

7

Remember twenty years ago how you took me---used me like a plaything then when you were tired of me you turned me and my nameless baby out. Remember! You left me to starve, till I went to ~~the~~very depths of sin. Did you forget all of that? Did you forget that you had a child by me?

EDWIN

Oh shut up!

MAGGIE

I won't shut up! I only want to know if you're satisfied with what you bought from me?

EDWIN

Yes!

MAGGIE

You ought to be for she was your own daughter.' (STARES AT HIM. HE STARES AT HER. THEN SHE LAUGHS UPRORIOUSLY) Do you hear me, your own daughter!

EDWIN

(SHAKING HER) What are you saying? Good god tell me that's a lie. You don't mean it. You're lyin'! No! No! Let me see her! My own daughter! (EXITS FRANTIC L.)

MAGGIE

(STANDS RESIGNED) It's over! I've seen him suffer! I've seen the pain and anguish in his heart. Now I'm thru. I'm all done---and now--now I'm sorry! (SITS DOWN IN CHAIR AND SOBS SOFTLY)

HOGAN

(GOES TO HER) Are you really sorry, Maggie?

MAGGIE

Yes---after all---she was innocent---I shouldn't have done that to her--Hogan, I'm going to kill my self, but don't let that kid know---I--

HOGAN

You're all right Maggie---everything is all right---take another drink

MAGGIE

I don't want it! I've drank enough! I had to drink it to do what I done. God forgive me---everyone forgive me. I'm sorry now--so sorry.

WILLIAM

You ask forgiveness now for what you have done---you make a mockery of god when you ask that---for selfish revenge you would wreck the life of an innocent girl, you fiend, I'll--(POINTS REVOLVER AT HER)

MAGGIE

(DEFIANTLY TO HIM) Go ahead, that's what I want you to do---just tell the world that I'm sorry!

LOUISE

(ENTERS L. SHE IS NOT UPSET OR ANYTHING) Aunt, what is the matter? What's all of this noise? I've been straightening up my room, and it's really a darling! William, what are you doing here--why--

MAGGIE

(LOOKING AT HOGAN) Hogan, what does this mean. Why she's---

HOGAN

She's untouched! I knew you'd be sorry for what you were going to do. So I substituted a girl that I had brought in this morning for that of your own daughter!

MAGGIE

You--mean--you---Oh!

WILLIAM

Then she---Louise! (RUSHES TO HER)

LOUISE

What does it all mean? Everyone is acting so strange, I---

HOGAN

That's all right, Kid, you don't need to know---) MOTIONS TO WILLIAM)
TO TAKE LOUISE OUT) (THEY EXIT R.) Are you sore for what I done, Maggie.

MAGGIE

No, I thank you, Hogan, God I thank you! (SHOT OFF STAGE) What's that?

HOGAN

(LOOKS OFF L.) Looks like your revenge worked all right---he shot himse

MAGGIE

(LOOKS) Edwin? *But, Hogan, who was the girl you sent into him?*

HOGAN

Nancy Woodman, that goofy girl that was her father's
Maggie, let's pull away from this all---quit the racket---I got some property on Belmont Side--let's go there--what dy'e say?

MAGGIE

Hogan, are you proposin' to me?

HOGAN

Take it or leave it! (OFFERS HANDS)

MAGGIE

I--

HOGAN

I think you better take it.

MAGGIE

But my kiddo--what about her?

HOGAN

What she don't know won't hurt her, besides I think that young fellow will decide for her. Maggie, I want you to be happy now! Let's forget it all. (PUTS ARMS AROUND HER)

MAGGIE

(HAPPY) Oh gee I am happy now!

~~WILLIAM~~ LOUISE

(ENTERS R. WITH WILLIAM) Oh, Aunt, William wants to marry me. What shall I say?

MAGGIE

What would you want to say?

I want to say yes.

LOUISE

MAGGIE

Well then say it, kid, say it! For that's what I've just said!
(EMBRACES HOGAN)

F I N A L E